



Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center



Interpretive Program Guide for Teachers and Group Leaders 2012-2013



Discover Nature at Burr Oak Woods!

General Information

WELCOME: AT BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER, YOU WILL FIND A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS DEVELOPED FOR ALL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN. EACH PROGRAM INCORPORATES HANDS-ON AND MINDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OUTDOORS. PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO ENHANCE SCIENCE BASED SUBJECTS BUT MANY ARE CROSS-CURRICULAR, AND ARE ALIGNED TO THE MISSOURI GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS.

CHOOSE BURR OAK WOODS FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP THIS YEAR. WE GUARANTEE THAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL BE ENGAGED, LEARN, AND CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCE LONG AFTER THEY LEAVE THE NATURE CENTER.

**How do I schedule my
FREE program presented by
Burr Oak Woods?**

Registration for the fall/winter semester begins August 1st, January 2nd for the spring semester, and May 1st for summer programs. Programs can be scheduled for groups of 10 or more. Call 816-228-3766 or email burr.oak@mdc.mo.gov

Self-guided Visits

Self guided groups are always welcome at the nature center. We ask that you schedule your visit as you would any program. Upon arrival, please check in at the front desk. You will be given a trail map to help you explore the area.

What can we expect when we arrive?

Burr Oak Woods Nature Center is owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Nestled in the heart of this 1,071-acre conservation area are six hiking trails, including two paved trails, which provide easy access to most parts of the area. The interpretive center has educational and informative exhibits, including a 3,000 gallon freshwater aquarium, the Discover Nature play area, a wildlife viewing room, and a variety of live amphibians and reptiles. Lunch facilities include two picnic areas. These are available on a first come first served basis. Please keep in mind that the two areas do required a drive from the interpretive center. Burr Oak Woods has a trash in/trash out policy for schools. Please bring trash bags.

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Back to Nature:

Special Education & Special Need Groups

1 Hour

BACK TO NATURE IS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY, OR EDUCATIONALLY CHALLENGED GROUPS AND WILL FOCUS ON A VARIETY OF SENSORY EXPERIENCES. FLEXIBLE, HANDS-ON PROGRAMS OFFER A NURTURING DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF NATURE. STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET LIVE ANIMALS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. EXPERIENCED BURR OAK WOODS NATURALISTS ARE SENSITIVE TO ANY FEARS OR CONCERNS THE STUDENTS MIGHT HAVE. ENTHUSIASTIC AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF WILL HELP TO NURTURE A DEEPER LOVE OF NATURE IN STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITY LEVELS.

Reptiles Rock!

Time of year: Year round

Reptiles move about their world exploring with senses very different than our own. Discover their amazing adaptations.

Incredible Mammals of Missouri

Time of year: Year round

What makes a mammal a mammal? If you don't see them when you explore in nature, how do you know they were there? Discover their incredible story through the signs they leave behind.

Preschool

1 Hour

Maximum 25 students

Seasons of Change

Time of year: Year round

The natural world is ever-changing as it cycles through the seasons. Students discover the wonders of the present season through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration.

Naturally Sense-sational

Time of Year: Year round

Pack your sensing toolkit and head out to the trails at Burr Oak Woods as we discover how to see, smell, touch, taste, and hear just like our animal friends.

Nature's Hide & Seek

Time of Year: Year round

"Now you see me! Now you don't!" Discover the strategies animals use to avoid predators or search for prey. Observation skills will be put to the test as we play interactive games and hike down a secret trail.

Kindergarten

1.5 Hours

Maximum 80 students

Microhike

Time of Year: School Year

Just as Horton discovers Whoville, sometimes the most interesting things in nature are found right beneath our feet. Students explore mini-worlds that help make the Earth an amazing place to live. Out in the field, students use simple equipment such as hand lenses to observe and compare the structures and behaviors of different kinds of plants and animals.

Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.1D.a., 7.1.B.K-2.b

That Makes Perfect Sense

Time of Year: School Year

Wild animals use their five senses to survive just like we do. A wild puppet show will help students understand just how animals use their senses. We'll head outdoors and use our own senses as we play some fun sensory games along the trail.

Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.1.D.1.c

1st-2nd grade

2.5 Hours

Maximum 80 students

Missouri's Creepiest Residents

Time of Year: School Year

Missouri is home to many amazing wild animals, including some that might seem kind of 'creepy'. During this program, students will participate in an interactive game show to learn about some of the amazing adaptations of these animals and to better understand and appreciate their diversity. We'll head outside in search of some of Missouri's creepiest residents in their own wild habitat.

Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.1.A.1.a, 3.1.D.1.b

M-Files

Time of Year: School Year

We have called the Naturalist in Black to help your class unlock the clues to a special mystery. Students will go outside in search of clues to solve the case. We will work together to uncover evidence involving habitat requirements of the resident mammals at Burr Oak Woods. Who is the mystery mammal?

Missouri GLEs Strand: 3:1.A.a, 3:1.D.b, 7:1.C.a

3rd-5th grade

2.5 Hours

Maximum 80 students

Riddle of the Woods

Time of Year: School Year

Wild animals leave clues everywhere they go. Students will play an interactive game to learn how to “read” animal signs. Simply by studying the animal’s scat, we can categorize them as one of three types of consumers: herbivore, omnivore, or carnivore. Head outside for a hike of nature discovery and play a new role in the food web to understand the flow of energy through ecosystems.

This program best meets 3rd grade Missouri GLEs Strand:4.2.3.b -d,1.A.a, 2.A.a-c

Strange, Extraordinary, and Champion Trees

Time of Year: School Year

Become a giant hunter! Our assignment is to find the biggest, most incredible tree on the conservation area, and we need your help! Using cross-curricular, hands-on activities, students will learn to identify, age, and measure a tree. Your class will help to determine the Burr Oak Woods Champion Tree!

This program best meets 4th grade Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.D.a, 7.B.a-e, 7.1.A.a-b.

Maximum 60 students

Aquatic Explorers

Time of Year: School Year

Explore Missouri’s aquatic ecosystems and find the amazing diversity of life in or around a pond. Much can be learned about a community by observing the biological residents. Students will conduct a scientific survey using nets to examine the invertebrate population, determine how water pollution affects living organisms within the pond through interactive play, and even go fishing to discover just which fish reside here.

This program best meets 5th grade Missouri GLEs Strand: 3:1.E.c, 3:2.C.a, 4:1.A.a, 4:1.D.a, 5:3.A.a, 5:3.A.b, 5:3.A.c, 7:1.B.b,

Rain Out Program

Critters Close-up! If the weather turns unfavorable on your field trip day, we will still provide a quality program. Students will meet several live reptiles and amphibians in this lively eye-ball to eye-ball program!

Programs at Your School

FROM DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH WE TAKE OUR SHOW ON THE ROAD!

Kindergarten

2 Hours

Nature’s Naming Game

We use classification in our everyday life to group objects together based on common characteristics. We classify clothing, books, and even food! Classification is also an important tool scientists use to examine the natural world. Participate in hands-on activities to learn exactly what classification is.

Missouri GLEs: Strand 3.1.D.a

1st - 2nd grade

2 Hours

Going Batty!

Bats have been misunderstood, mistreated, and shrouded in mystery throughout time. Discover the cool physical and behavioral adaptations that make bats such unique creatures. This interactive program will leave students and teachers with a better understanding of the important role that bats play in nature.

Missouri GLEs: Strand 3.1.A.a, 1.B.a, 1.D.b and d

3rd - 4th grade

2 Hours

The Cycle Of Life

Discover the transfer of energy and the relationships between organisms that make up the natural world. Students will check out producer, consumer, and decomposer interactions, and examine predator/prey relationships. What is our role in this cycle of life?

Missouri GLEs: Strand 4.2.A.b-d, 1.D.a, 2.A.a-c

5th grade & up

1.5 Hours

Extinct ~ Endangered ~ Recovered

You know the story of how bald eagles have recovered as a species, but many do not know that white-tail deer almost disappeared from Missouri. In this interactive program, students will gain a deeper understanding of conserving our natural resources. We will assess a wildlife population and learn to identify factors that adversely affect them.

Missouri GLEs: Strand 4.1.B.a and c, 1.D.a and c

5th grade & up *Continued*

1.5 Hours

You Be the Judge

Conservation and natural resource issues often do not have easy solutions. Your students will have the opportunity to examine a local controversial issue as they role play in a town council meeting. They must consider competition for shelter and food, and how organisms can be impacted within an ecosystem. Can they balance human want and need with conservation of our natural resources?

Missouri GLEs Strand: 4.1.B.a-c, 1.D.a-c



Discover Nature Schools

3-4 hours

PROGRAM PROMOTES CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGES HANDS-ON OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES. GRANTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM PROVIDE MONEY FOR MATERIALS AND FIELD TRIP TRANSPORTATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION CONSULTANT AT 816-759-7300 OR AT mdc.mo.gov/education

Upper Elementary

Nature Unleashed

Your students will be engaged in real life, inquiry based scientific investigation of a pond, prairie and forest ecosystem.

Middle School

Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems

Students will follow their own curiosity to explore intriguing mysteries just beneath the surface of the water.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Burr Oak Woods
Conservation Nature Center
1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-228-3766
mdc.mo.gov/node/280

Hours:

Building hours

Tuesday-Friday: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

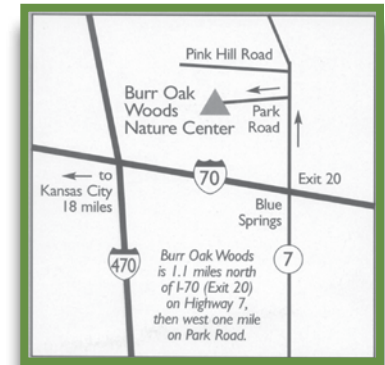
Saturday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Area hours

• Daylight Savings Time: open daily from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm

• Central Standard Time: open daily from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

The building and area grounds are closed on Thanksgiving, the Friday following Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



Summer Programs

1.5 Hours

CONTACT THE NATURE CENTER TO SCHEDULE YOUR PROGRAM BEGINNING MAY 1ST.

CALL 816-228-3766 OR EMAIL burr.oak@mdc.mo.gov

Insect-a-mania (maximum 30 students)

Enter a fantastic new world! Students will marvel at the incredible adaptations of insects as they become entomologists. Students will venture into a prairie and a forest to closely examine these strange and wonderful creatures!

Amazing Adaptations (maximum 90 students)

Can an owl turn its head all the way around? Why do some plants have thorns? Animals and plants have developed special behaviors or unique physical traits that promote the survival and reproduction of their species. Let's learn about these amazing adaptations together!

Backyard Neighbors (maximum 90 students)

You might think you already know your neighbors, but do you really know everyone who lives nearby? There are many wild animals that visit our backyards when we are not looking. Join us as we search for clues that help us discover and appreciate the remarkable animals that call your neighborhood home.

Cold-Blooded Critters (maximum 90 students)

Slither, crawl or swim in to the exciting world of Missouri's reptiles and amphibians. These cold-blooded animals are unique, diverse and very important to our ecosystem. Join us as we learn about these wonderful creatures and get an up-close look at some of them!